

WASHINGTON, DC – Congressman Allen Boyd (D-North Florida) today announced that nearly \$20 million in federal stimulus funding has been awarded to North Florida cities and companies to develop Smart Grid technologies.

“This unprecedented investment in smart grid technologies will create new high-tech jobs for our area, save consumers money on their energy bills, and help build the infrastructure necessary to spark development of American-made energy sources,” said Congressman Boyd. “In addition, no one knows better than Floridians the devastating effects that Mother Nature can have on our area, particularly in the form of hurricanes and tropical storms. Smart grid technology will provide enhanced protection during extreme weather, helping keep the lights on longer as well as restore power more quickly when severe weather strikes.”

Funding for these smart grid enhancements is being allocated as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act's \$3.4 billion Smart Grid Investment Grant and will be matched by industry funding. One-hundred private companies, utilities, manufacturers, cities and other partners across the country received awards today. Local entities that received awards include:

- Talquin Electric Cooperative, Inc., a Quincy-based company, will receive \$8,100,000 to install a smart meter network system for 56,000 residential and commercial customers in North Florida, as well as integrate an outage management system with geographic information as part of the smart grid.
- The City of Quincy will receive \$2,471,041 to deploy a smart grid network across the entire customer base, including two-way communication and dynamic pricing to reduce utility bills.
- The City of Tallahassee will receive \$8,890,554 to implement a comprehensive demand response program, including smart thermostats and advanced load control systems that will target residential and commercial customers and lead to an estimated 35 MW reduction in peak power.

According to the Electric Power Research Institute, the implementation of smart grid technologies in Florida could help save Floridian businesses and consumers \$1.6 billion by 2030.

Congressman Boyd supported the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, also known as the stimulus bill, which was signed into law earlier this year. In July, Congressman Boyd sent a letter to the Department of Energy expressing support for the Talquin Electric Cooperative's Advanced Metering Infrastructure program.

Congressman Boyd concluded: "The countless benefits smart grid provides is why I've been a strong proponent of this technology for a long time, and I commend the recipients of this funding and look forward to working with them to further enhance our nation's energy delivery systems."

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